

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 13-20 will be pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-12 are herein canceled. Claims 13-20 are herein added. No new matter has been entered. It is respectfully submitted that this paper is fully responsive to the Office action mailed on June 12, 2008.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 1 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over *Goodman et al* (US 6454865).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of the cited reference for the reasons discussed in Applicant's response filed on June 28, 2007 and March 5, 2008.

However, to expedite prosecution, Applicant cancel claims 1-12 and submit new claims 13-20 to clarify the subject matter of the present invention. Claim 13 and 17 describe a susceptor comprising a gas supply channel that defines a groove which is formed from **a rear-surface-side** of the susceptor to the wafer pocket and has a cross-sectional shape narrowing from an outer end towards an inner end of the groove. Support for this amendment is found, for example, in Figs 3, 14, and 15 and on page 15 of the specification.

Goodman et al does NOT describe a susceptor having this claimed structure. In particular, *Goodman et al.* does not describe a susceptor having a gas supply channel groove that

is located on the **side surface** of a susceptor plate. Instead, *Goodman et al* discloses a completely different structure wherein gas is supplied to the pocket through recesses provided on an **underside** of the wafer holder. See Fig. 36; col. 25, lines 9-23 (“A lower gas passage is provided in the form of at least one conduit 270e leading from the underside of the wafer holder 20e to the gap between the base plate 50e and the wafer 16.”)

Moreover, Applicants submit that recess 62 is not the claimed gas supply/discharge. Recess 62 is merely provided for fitting a spider post 64 therein so as to support a wafer holder 20 on a spider 22 (which corresponds to a susceptor arm 15). In other words, recess 62 does not supply and discharge a gas.

On advantage of the claimed structure that is not obtained by the *Goodman et al* reference is that the groove introduces gas in the vicinity of the rear surface of the susceptor in response to the rotation of the susceptor, thereby increasing the volume of gas supplied to the wafer pocket and consequently, the volume of gas discharged from the wafer pocket. In *Goodman*, a wafer holder (200d in Fig. 35 or 200e in Figs. 36-37) rotates, and a gas is supplied to a wafer pocket, but in the devices in Figs 35-37, the rotation of the wafer holder 200d or 200e is not related to the amount of gas to be supplied. Thus, unlike the claimed invention, the rotation of wafer holder 200d or 200e does not influence the volume of gas supplied to the wafer pocket.

In view of the aforementioned remarks distinguishing the claimed invention from the cited reference, Applicant respectfully submit that new claims 13-20 are not obvious in view of the teachings of the cited reference.

Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 13-20 be allowed.

Application No.: 10/626,675
Art Unit: 1792

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116
Attorney Docket No.: 030901

Conclusion

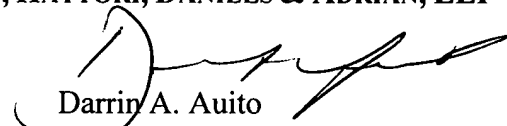
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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